

voice of the United States Congress was heard as well, and I know that all of my colleagues who have been on the Commission or worked with it are enormously proud of that fact.

IN MEMORY OF MR. JAMES V.
PSENICKA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2001

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a very fine man, Mr. James V. Psenicka, for his dedicated years of service and countless contributions to the community.

Mr. Psenicka was born in Maple Heights to Czech immigrants who met and married in the United States. The family then moved to Streetsboro to purchase land. Mr. Psenicka graduated from Kent State High School in 1950 and immediately joined the staff of "The Neighborhood News" where he served as a reporter and advertising salesman. He soon earned his bachelors degree in journalism from Kent State University in 1955.

Mr. Psenicka assumed the role of owner and publisher of "The Neighborhood News" in 1961 after serving in the U.S. Navy Air force in Guam. As publisher, Mr. Psenicka campaigned for cleaner air and strict anti-pollution regulation. He fought for countless causes to make life better for hard-working Czech and Polish-American readers. Under his leadership, the newspaper was named Best Weekly Newspaper by the Neighborhood and Community Press Association of Greater Cleveland in 1999.

Although his commitment to "The Neighborhood News" earned the newspaper countless awards and honors, Mr. Psenicka kept family and friends first. He enjoyed traveling with his wife and three sons to Canada, Greece, Europe, and many other places. He relished boating and gardening. You would often see Mr. Psenicka off the coast of Lake Erie fishing.

Mr. Psenicka also had an incredible dedication to his local community. He served as a member of Karlin Hall on Fleet Avenue and the Small Business Advisory Council to the U.S. Congress. In addition, Mr. Psenicka served as a dedicated member to the Kiwanis Club of South East Cleveland, the world's largest service organization.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the memory of Mr. James V. Psenicka, a man that has touched the Cleveland and world community in many ways. His love, dedication, and honor will be greatly missed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. WES WATKINS

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2217) making ap-

propriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes:

Mr. WATKINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2217, the Interior Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2002. Among the components of that act is funding for the Department of Energy's Office of Fossil Energy and its program of oil and natural gas research and development. Few among us understand what an important role oil and natural gas research and development plays in our nation's ability to produce critical quantities of those resources for our domestic consumption.

I would like to introduce into the RECORD today one of the recommendations contained in a report of the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission (IOGCC) entitled A Dependent Nation: How Federal Oil and Natural Gas Policy is Eroding America's Economic Independence. This report contains the IOGCC governors' own set of recommendations for a national oil and natural gas policy. It is my hope that this information will help explain why federally funded oil and natural gas research and development is so vitally important to this country.

RECOMMENDATION 2: PROMOTE THE EXPANSION
OF RESEARCH TO RECOVER DOMESTIC OIL
AND GAS RESOURCES

This far-reaching recommendation encompasses a number of initiatives designed to ensure the nation's reserves are fully developed. First, to make informed decisions regarding the nation's energy future, the public must have definitive information on the actual domestic petroleum resource.

For example, there are vast known reserves of oil in the United States. The IOGCC estimates that 351 billion barrels will remain in the ground after conventional recovery technologies have been applied.

In addition, there are oil and natural gas reserves located on private and public lands and offshore that have not been analyzed or catalogued. Some of these reserves may exist in environmentally sensitive areas or in difficult-to-access locations that would require extraordinary exploration and production measures or advanced research to develop. Therefore, in addition to identifying the entire oil and gas resource base of the country, research should include estimates of the time required to bring these resources into production.

Defining these resources is only a first step. As an advocate for oil and natural gas research, the IOGCC also strongly supports programs that create technology to improve recovery rates and lower finding and production costs. Such research and development (R&D) is an investment in the country's future and its energy security. Technological advance might be the most important factor in ensuring America's nonrenewable resources are fully developed.

As noted by the Task Force on Strategic Energy Research and Development, "There is growing evidence of a brewing 'R&D crisis' in the United States—the result of cutbacks and refocusing in private-sector R&D and reductions in federal R&D. Support for research and development is indeed being simultaneously reduced in the private and public sectors. R&D cannot be turned on and off like a water tap. The acquisition of new knowledge and the embodiment of new knowledge in new products and services for the economy is a cumulative process that requires continuous effort to sustain. The accumulation of cutbacks in public and private R&D could be setting the stage for a major

shortfall and setbacks in R&D in the United States—characterized by the lack of consistent attention to longer-term needs and problems, a shrinking population of scientists and engineers available to perform high-quality R&D, and a loss of incentives and opportunities for new generations of technologists."

A 1997 report commissioned by the IOGCC confirmed the declining trend in oil and gas research and development. "When private R&D is compared to federal expenditures, the outlook is more bleak. Private spending is substantiated . . . but federal spending remains disproportionately small compared to the relative importance of oil and gas to U.S. energy requirements."

Enrollment in petroleum-related majors at America's colleges and universities has shrunk as well. At the University of Texas at Austin, home of one of the largest petroleum engineering programs in the nation, undergraduate enrollment in the Department of Petroleum and Geosystems Engineering has plummeted more than 80 percent from a high of 1,200 in 1982 to 222 in 1999. About 1,300 students currently are enrolled in undergraduate petroleum engineering programs in the U.S., down sharply from more than 11,000 in 1983.

A 1997 study published by the IOGCC expressed alarm at the loss of experienced and entry-level technical personnel, noting "there is a 5- to 7-year gap between decisions to increase exploration budgets and resulting new oil production, even when experienced technical staff are available. However, few have considered the long-term effects of the 1986 petroleum jobs massacre (in which 500,000 jobs were lost) and how the events of 10 years ago will influence future energy policy and supplies . . . Any crisis in oil supply causing increases in domestic activity will be constrained by lack of qualified staff."

The federal government could fulfill a vital leadership role in reversing the trend. The country's network of national laboratories, for example, seems ideally suited for the mission of energy research.

In addition, the IOGCC supports a reallocation of U.S. Department of Energy resources to provide additional research and development funding for oil and natural gas. The DOE's budget request totals \$18.9 billion for fiscal year 2001. For fossil energy research and development, DOE is requesting \$376 million, less than 2 percent of the budget. About \$160 million is requested for oil and natural gas research. This represents slightly more than one-half of one percent of the DOE budget request—for fuels that deliver more than 85 percent of the country's energy.

The DOE's Office of Fossil Energy highlights the importance of R&D. "Looking forward, the domestic oil and gas industry will be challenged to continue extending the frontiers of technology. Ongoing advances in E&P productivity are essential if producers are to keep pace with steadily growing demand for oil and gas, both in the United States and world wide."

The NPC notes "producers are turning to the service sectors to develop new technology for specific applications. Industry consortia have been formed to address critical technology challenges such as deep water development. While many of these changes improve the efficiency with which research and development dollars are spent, concerns have been widely expressed that basic and long-term research are not being adequately addressed."

Meanwhile, solar and renewables technologies, which provide less than 10 percent of U.S. energy, would receive more than \$457 million. The 28 percent increase in funding (\$99 million) for 2001 represents more than the total request for oil and natural gas research.